Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode via a monitoring server over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ the method comprising the following steps:

· estimating a bit rate value for at least one packet amongst a plurality of packets of an initialization ~~packet~~ message received by the monitoring server;

· comparing that value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages;~~value;~~ and

· authorizing transmission of the ~~initialization~~ packet only if the bit rate value for that ~~initialization~~ packet does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate ~~value.~~ value for packets of initialization messages.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein a transmission channel associated with a specific maximum authorized bit rate value for packets of initialization messages is defined for each pair comprising a sender terminal and a receiver terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating the bit rate value for the ~~initialization~~ packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

· storing the sizes of the latest ~~initialization~~ packets of the initialization message sent by the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration; and

· dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored ~~initialization~~ packets by the predetermined duration.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which also processes packets of session initialization ~~packets.~~ messages.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the packets of the session initialization ~~packets~~ messages are forcibly routed to the monitoring server consisting of the first processor server through which said session initialization packets pass.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages, wherein the monitoring server consists of a session initialization packet processor server of the network, and routing rules are defined to ensure that the packets of the session initialization ~~packets~~ messages systematically pass in transit through the processor server.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

8. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a monitoring server for monitoring multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages transmitted in packet mode over a network between a sender terminal and one or more receiver terminals, the server receiving the packets from the network and transmitting the packets to the network, the method comprising:

· estimating a bit rate value for at least one packet amongst a plurality of packets of an initialization ~~packet~~ message received by the monitoring server;

· comparing that value to a predetermined maximum authorized bit rate ~~value;~~value for packets of initialization messages; and

· authorizing transmission of the ~~initialization~~ packet only if the bit rate value for that ~~initialization~~ packet does not exceed the predetermined maximum authorized bit rate ~~value.~~value for packets of initialization messages.

9. (Previously Presented) A system for transmitting multimedia stream exchange session initialization messages, including a network including one or more monitoring servers according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein estimating the bit rate value for the ~~initialization~~ packet received by the monitoring server includes the following steps:

· storing the sizes of the latest ~~initialization~~ packets of the initialization message sent by the sender terminal to the receiver terminal and received by the monitoring server during a predetermined duration; and

· dividing the sum of the sizes of the stored ~~initialization~~ packets by the predetermined duration.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which also processes packets of session initialization ~~packets.~~messages.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, implemented by the monitoring server, which also processes packets of session initialization ~~packets.~~messages.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6 of monitoring messages transmitted in packet mode, wherein the session initialization messages transmitted use the Session Initialization Protocol (SIP).